

WORKSHOP MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present upon Roll Call: Commissioner Branch, Commissioner Wojcik, Commissioner Holthaus, Vice Mayor Adams, Mayor Armstrong.

Employee Benefits

Bert Valery from Valery Insurance Company presented a proposal to the Commission for employee health insurance. Mr. Valery said his company has had 30 years of service in Pinellas County, providing service mostly to municipal organizations. Mr. Valery introduced Janet Perkins, who represents BC/BS insurance, and suggested the Commission consider Blue Cross as the primary selection. Valery Insurance offers a monthly cost per employee of \$482.00 compared to the existing \$774.00 currently being paid by the Town. When asked if the rates may go up next year Mr. Valery said that rates for small employers are based on claims in a statewide pool, and do not increase very much. Mayor Armstrong expressed a desire to keep co-pays for employees low, and will ask for a vote at the September 12 meeting. Mr. Valery said that new enrollment needs to be in by September 17 to make the October 1 deadline.

OLD BUSINESS

Debris Management

Mayor Armstrong discussed the debris removal issue, and said that Waste Services can handle debris from up to a Category 3 storm. Commissioner Wojcik provided a spreadsheet with 6 different companies that could offer a debris removal contract for the Town. Commissioner Wojcik said that close proximity to the Town should be a consideration in hiring a company, and that being able to piggyback on another city's contract is a good feature. Mayor Armstrong stated that the County will not be responsible for the Town's immediate needs for debris removal, that we must take care of our own debris contract. It was agreed that a decision will be made at the September 12 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No Wake Zone – Shell's Basin

Resident Rita Merrill expressed her concerns about boat traffic in the Shell's basin, and would like to see the area become a "no wake" zone. Mayor Armstrong said that with the kayak launch being built at Del Bello Park there will be an area of no wake there. Mayor Armstrong then asked Commissioner Branch and Ms. Merrill to obtain an informal poll of the residents fronting the basin to see how they feel about the issue. Mr. Valery of Valery Insurance said that his wife has been on a committee in Indian Rocks Beach to spearhead a similar no wake policy there, and he would be happy to provide any information they have obtained. There were no further discussion about the request at the next Commission meeting.

Appointment to Planning and Zoning Board District Four

Mayor Armstrong asked Commissioner Holthaus if he has any leads on replacement members for District 4 Planning & Zoning Board. Having received none yet Commissioner Holthaus said he would speak to several residents regarding appointment. Advertising for District 4 member and one alternate will be placed on the cable TV channel, and appointments will be made at the Sept. 12 meeting.

Appoint Chairperson Planning and Zoning Board

Mayor Armstrong explained that since Bob Holthaus had resigned his position as Chair of P&Z to become District 4 Commissioner, the Commission needs to appoint a new Chairman. Sam Ireson was asked if he would be the Chairman of Planning & Zoning, but he was unable to accept the position. P & Z member Bonnie Stein was also approached, and said she may be able to accept. The appointment will be made at the September 12 meeting.

Appointment to Parks and Recreation

There are two positions available on the Parks & Recreation Committee: 1 at-large and 1 alternate that must be filled. Mayor Armstrong said that Attorney Denhardt was asked if Martha Holthaus, wife of Commissioner Holthaus, could be appointed. Mr. Denhardt said that would be acceptable if no other residents applied. The positions are being advertised on cable TV and will be appointed at the September 12 meeting.

Parking Ticket Management

Mayor Armstrong announced that effective January 1, 2007 the Clerk of Courts will no longer process the Town's parking ticket violations. The options are to have Indian Shores Police Department take over the responsibility, or to process them at Town Hall. Vice Mayor Adams said that he spoke with Chief Williams, and that the Police Department is willing to take on the task. Vice Mayor Adams also said that this is only for parking violations. The Commission will vote on the issue at the September 12 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Vice Mayor Adams said that the Town's tractor for mowing is in disrepair, and should be replaced. Out of \$15,000 allocated for maintenance and repairs there has been \$1,200 spent. Steve Jordan, Director of Public Works, has been asked to obtain quotes for new mowers, and has received a quote of \$5,819 for a commercial grade mower that could be used on the medians as well. Vice Mayor Adams said that the maintenance crew currently spends up to 60 hours per week to mow using push mowers for the islands. Mayor Armstrong said that the Commission will make a decision at the Sept. 12 meeting.

Commissioner Wojcik said that he has had several residents ask about the increase in property taxes, despite the 1.68 ad valorem tax remaining the same. Commissioner Wojcik would like to help the residents become better informed as to how the process works.

Commissioner Branch said that he will be out of town September 12. Commissioner Branch explained that there have been some concerns from residents about the possible planned ½ basketball court at Spitzer Park, due to the age of the children using it. Mayor Armstrong said that the Parks & Recreation Committee has discussed the court at a previous meeting, and should review the request again since some complaints have been made. Commissioner Branch then reported that the sewer lift station at 176th Avenue and 1st Street is having recurring emergencies, mainly because it is so old. Commissioner Branch said that it would cost approximately \$100,000 to make temporary repairs, and about \$400,000 to install a new system. Mayor Armstrong suggested that this matter be considered for quotations at the September meeting.

Special Meeting – Wednesday, September 6, 2006 – 5:15 p.m.

Regular Meeting – Monday, September 11, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

Workshop Meeting – Tuesday, September 26, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Herr
Administrative Secretary